

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 039691
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SS-15 SY-05 L-03 A-01 PC-01
INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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DRAFTED BY CTF:SPATTERSON:MMS
APPROVED BY M/CT - DHECK
S/S GOLDSMITH
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O 222316Z FEB 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 039691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA KIDNAPPING - STIUATION REPORT NO. 10

NO WORD FROM KIDNAPPERS -- WE HAVE STILL NOT RECEIVED ANY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE KIDNAPPERS.

PRIVATE APPEAL TO FARC -- THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR CALLED
ON AN INTERMEDIARY WHO IS A COLOMBIAN DOCTOR WITH CONNEC-
TIONS WITH FARC FEBRUARY 21 AND GAVE HIM A LETTER CONTAIN-
ING A HUMANITARIAN APPEAL. THE DOCTOR REPEATEDLY REFERRED
TO THE AMBIGUOUS AND DELICATE SITUATION IT CREATED FOR HIM,
AND MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAD WITH THE COLOMBIAN
GOVERNMENT WHEN HE ACTED AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN THE CASE OF
THE HONORARY DUTCH CONSUL WHO WAS ALSO KIDNAPPED BY FARC.
HE SAID HE WOULD GLADLY SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN TAKING
THE LETTER TO FARC ON THE CONDITION THAT THE US AMBASSADOR,
THE COLOMBIAN CHIEF OF JOINT STAFF, AND THE MINISTER OF
GOVERNMENT ALL GIVE EXPLICIT APPROVAL OF HIS ROLE, AND THAT
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IN ADDITION SHOULD ANYTHING GO WRONG HE WOULD BE ALLOWED
IMMEDIATE ENTRANCE INTO THE UNITED STATES. HE IS GOING TO
THE KIDNAP AREA FRIDAY, SO THAT HIS STIPULATIONS SHOULD BE
MET NO LATER THAN THURSDAY. THE DOCTOR IS OF THE OPINION
THAT FARC WOULD NOT HARM STARR, BUT THAT THE ONLY HOPE OF
GETTING HIM BACK ALIVE IS TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND

PAY A RANSOM. HE MENTIONED THAT THE US MIGHT FIND IT MORE FEASIBLE TO GIVE AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN CASH. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDED THAT THE DOCTOR'S CONDITIONS NOT BE MET AS THAT MIGHT BE VIEWED BY THE FARC AS THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS.

RESPONSE TO FARC INTERMEDIARY -- THE TASK FORCE HAS REACHED A CONSENSUS THAT WHILE CLEARLY THE DOCTOR'S STIPULATIONS CANNOT BE MET, NEVERTHELESS THE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR SHOULD CALL ON THE DOCTOR THURSDAY TO REITERATE THE HUMANITARIAN PLEA, GIVING THE KIDNAPPERS A FACE-SAVING WAY OUT OF THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH THEY HAVE PLACED THEMSELVES, AND SAYING THAT AS PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR HE IS NOT IN A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THE DOCTOR'S DEMANDS. A CABLE OUTLINING THE TASK FORCE'S CONCLUSIONS IS BEING SENT TO BOGOTA IMMEDIATELY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: KIDNAPPING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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